

## AGENDA REQUEST AND SUMMARY

For: April 7, 2015 (Date of Board Meeting)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Time, if appointment scheduled with the Clerk)

Consent Calendar: Yes \_\_\_ No X  
Public Hearing: Yes \_\_\_ No X

1. WORDING FOR AGENDA (Include precise wording for required action, authorizing, etc. as it will appear on the Board Agenda, generally not to exceed 20 words).

Consideration of adopting the Tuolumne County Water Action Plan

2. FINANCING-ESTIMATED COUNTY COST: None
3. FUNDS BUDGETED: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # or Fund \_\_\_\_\_ No  
Requested from \_\_\_\_\_ Fund
4. REVIEWED WITH: COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - YES X NO \_\_\_  
COUNTY COUNSEL - YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_  
ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST - YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_  
OTHER DEPARTMENTS:
5. THE FOLLOWING OUTSIDE AGENCIES OR INDIVIDUALS TO BE NOTIFIED OF BOARD ACTION: (**Minute Excerpt** – Include complete mailing address and indicate number of copies to whom)  
A.  
B.  
C.  
D.
6. Number OF COPIES REQUIRED BY REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:  
(Indicate Minute Excerpt, Resolution, Agreement, etc.)
7. COMMENTS (i.e. has this item come before the Board previously and when?):

Requesting Dept: County Administrator's Office Submitted by: Craig Pedro

Approved by:  Date: March 26, 2015



## County Administrator's Office

**Craig L. Pedro**  
County Administrator

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March 26, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig L. Pedro, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Adoption of Water Action Plan

During the March 17, 2015 meeting, your Board held a discussion regarding *"providing staff direction on how the County can most effectively engage in water issues"*. Some of the major points made during that discussion were as follows:

- Water was critical to the County's future
- The County should have some lead role in water planning while respecting the independence and jurisdictional authority of local water agencies
- A comprehensive, countywide plan related to water was needed
- Prior discussions related to securing water rights and constructing specific water projects had lacked a clear vision or target as to the "need" being addressed
- Identification of our water needs was essential to supporting future planning and securing funding for implementation of resulting plans
- The General Plan should be used as the basis of a shared vision for the County's future and the basis of all future water planning

Given the above and other input, staff was given direction to develop a plan of action and return to the Board for adoption of same. Attached is a document entitled *"Water Action Plan – Developing a Plan for Our Future"*. The three primary points to this Action Plan are listed below:

1. Recognizes the role the General Plan plays in establishing the vision for growth and development throughout the County which thereby provides the basis for determining water needs in our community.
2. Recognizes the authority and responsibility of local water agencies to develop and maintain the infrastructure required to meet water needs within their respective jurisdictions.

*...serving the Board of Supervisors, departments, and the community as good stewards of the County's fiscal and human resources through collaborative, professional and ethical leadership.*

3. Calls for the compilation of each local jurisdiction's water project lists to help meet future needs into a "*Comprehensive Water Resources Plan*" covering all of Tuolumne County along with a system for regularly reviewing and updating same.

The Water Action Plan will be reviewed with the Water Policy Advisory Committee on March 26, 2015.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that your Board adopt the Tuolumne County Water Action Plan.

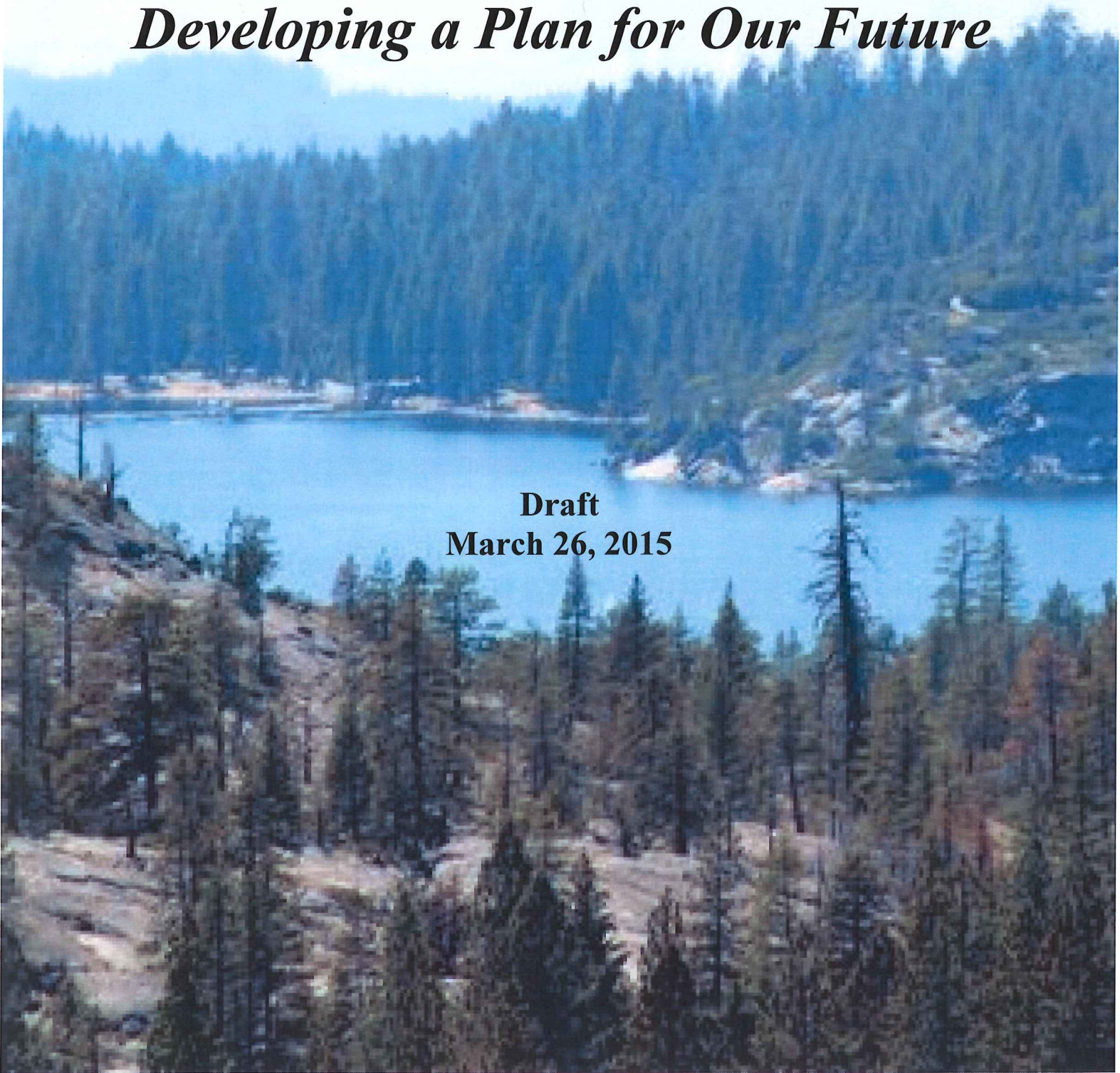
Cc: Water Policy Advisory Committee  
Daniel Richardson, Deputy CAO



# **Water Action Plan**

*Developing a Plan for Our Future*

**Draft  
March 26, 2015**



# Water Action Plan

## *Developing a Plan for Our Future*

<b>Step #1</b>	<b>General Plan .....</b>	<b>1</b>
	a. Overall Plan – “Land Use Vision”	
	b. Water Element - Stewardship of Water Resources	
<b>Step #2</b>	<b>General Plan EIR .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	a. General Description of Water System and Supply Capacity	
	b. Adequacy of Existing Water Supply to Meet the Vision – “Our Need”	
	c. Identification of Mitigation Measures	
<b>Step #3</b>	<b>Comprehensive Water Resources Plan .....</b>	<b>4</b>
	a. Prioritized List of Projects by Agency	
	b. Monitoring Progress	
	c. Plan Updates	
<b>Step #4</b>	<b>Tuolumne County Water Policy Advisory Committee Work Plans .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Step #5</b>	<b>Ongoing/Concurrent Actions .....</b>	<b>5</b>



## Step #1 General Plan

### a. Overall Plan – “Land Use Vision”

The General Plan is arguably one of the most important documents entrusted to the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors. It is the Board’s sole responsibility to establish a comprehensive plan for development of lands within the unincorporated areas of the County. The General Plan sets forth what type and intensity of development can occur and where in the County. In this manner, the General Plan creates a “Land Use Vision” for the unincorporated areas in the County. It should also be acknowledged that the City of Sonora’s General Plan creates the “Land Use Vision” for lands within its boundaries. With the creation of this Vision, the General Plan must demonstrate an ability (existing and/or planned) to meet the infrastructure (e.g. water, waste water, transportation, etc...) needs to support the Vision.

All components of the Draft General Plan were initially drafted by the Community Resources Agency (CRA) staff, reviewed by the Board of Supervisors Planning Committee (BOSPC) along with input from other advisory bodies such as the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Water Policy Advisory Committee, etc...

The overall timeline for preparation and adoption of the Tuolumne County General Plan is as follows:

- September 17, 2013 - Board of Supervisors authorized preparation of Draft General Plan.
- January – November 2014 – Review of Draft General Plan by BOSPC.
- Spring 2015 – Public review of Draft General Plan.
- December 2015 – Tuolumne County Planning Commission Public Hearing on General Plan with recommendation regarding adoption to Board of Supervisors.
- December 2015 – Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on adoption of General Plan.

### b. Water Element – Stewardship of Water Resources

The Board of Supervisors chose to create an optional element to the General Plan called the Water Element. The purpose of the Water Element is to establish broad policies (versus projects) to facilitate development and wise management and use of water resources within the County.

The Draft Water Element was initially prepared by CRA staff, reviewed by local water agencies, the BOSPC and Water Policy Advisory Committee. The Board of Supervisors has expressed its desire to review and modify the draft element once again. It is proposed

that a detailed review be conducted by the Board's Water Policy Advisory Committee. The resulting modifications will in turn be reviewed by the full Board.

The proposed timeline for this second review is as follows:

- May 28, 2015 – Water Policy Advisory Committee
- June 25, 2015 – Water Policy Advisory Committee
- July 7, 2015 – Board of Supervisors

## **Step #2      General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

A key component of the General Plan is its EIR. The EIR will assess the impacts related to the General Plan's "Land Use Vision" and identify measures aimed at mitigating these impacts. With respect to water, the General Plan's EIR will address the following:

### **a. General Description of Water System and Supply Capacity**

With the help of local water agencies, a general description of the County's water system and its capacity will be outlined. This will be broken down by the major water agencies and the areas they serve. It will also address the use of wells which serve the rural areas of the County.

### **b. Adequacy of Existing Water Supply to Meet the Vision – "Our Need"**

This component calls for two comparisons in order to determine our true water need in Tuolumne County:

- Baseline Condition - Existing development compared against our existing water supply
- Future Need - The "Land Use Vision" contained in the Draft General Plan against our existing water supply

The above analysis is critical to determine existing and future water needs and to justify future projects and related funding programs (e.g. grants, mitigation fees, etc...).

### **c. Identification of Mitigation Measures**

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act, the EIR will assess how the future water supply needs for the growth projected by the Draft General Plan may be met. It will also analyze potential impacts of the projected growth on the County's water resources and identify measures to mitigate those impacts.



The projected timeline for preparation of the General Plan's EIR is as follows:

- August 2014 - Board of Supervisors executed contract with Rincon Consulting to prepare EIR.
- Summer 2015 - Public review of Draft EIR.
- December 2015 - Tuolumne County Planning Commission Public Hearing on EIR and General Plan with recommendation regarding certification of EIR to Board of Supervisors.
- December 2015 - Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on certification of EIR and adoption of General Plan.

### **Step #3      Comprehensive Water Resources Plan**

With adoption of the General Plan and its EIR, a comprehensive Water Resources Plan can be developed, tracked and updated. This will require collaboration and cooperation between the City of Sonora, County of Tuolumne and all local water agencies and systems.

#### **a. Prioritized List of Projects by Agency**

It is proposed that a comprehensive list of projects be developed and broken down by the responsible (lead) agency. This segregation of projects is intended to reflect the respective jurisdictional authority and responsibility of each agency.

The County of Tuolumne will take responsibility for compiling this comprehensive Water Resources Plan while acknowledging that each participating entity is solely responsible for their specific portion of the plan. It would be ideal if each participating agency's board would adopt the resulting plan along with a pledge of support of each other's respective efforts to implement the plan.

The proposed timeline for preparation of this plan is as follows:

- April 2016

#### **b. Monitoring Progress**

It is intended that this plan be monitored at least annually so as to note progress being made on each component of the plan. The County will take responsibility for coordinating this activity.



c. Plan Updates

This plan will be updated as often as needed to stay current on any significant changes amongst proposed projects. The plan should be reviewed for potential updates at least once every three years. The County will take responsibility for coordinating this activity.

#### **Step #4      Tuolumne County Water Policy Advisory Committee Work Plans**

Those components of the comprehensive Water Resources Plan that are the sole and/or shared responsibility of the County will serve as the focus of annual work plans of the Water Policy Advisory Committee. With respect to projects and/or programs that fall under the sole authority of other local agencies, the County will limit its consideration of same to those times it is requested to offer comments and/or support. The County will attempt to compliment versus duplicate efforts of its local water agency partners.

#### **Step #5      Ongoing/Concurrent Actions**

While the water planning efforts outlined above take place, the County will continue its efforts to address current and emerging issues as they arise. Examples of such issues are as follows:

- Emergency response actions related to drought conditions
- Participate and provide comments related to FERC relicensing efforts (e.g. Pinecrest/Spring Gap, Don Pedro, etc...)
- Balancing water releases for fish flows versus public health and safety, recreation and business use
- Supporting healthy forest practices that enhance water quality and quantity
- Participating in planning and implementation of IRWM grant funded projects
- Support local water agency project funding applications (e.g. IRWM, Prop 1 Water Bond, etc...)
- Commenting on water related plans (e.g. Delta Plan, State Water Plan, Waters of the U.S., etc...)
- Investigate new water sources and water right opportunities